

THE CLIMAX

VOLUME IX.

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KNOWLEDGE

Brings comfort and improvement when used. The many who have been cured of various ailments and enjoy life more, with less expenditure, by more promptly adopting the world's best remedy for the cure of physical ills will attest the value to health of the pure liquid laxative principles embodied in the simple, safe, and effective, Serravallo's Compound.



CHRISTMAS EVE.

Where the Yule log glows and flames, Hark! the angels' voices ring; Softly chant the Master's name, And sing the angels' song.

Let the angels' voices ring, And sing the angels' song; Let the angels' voices ring, And sing the angels' song.



Bogus Santa Claus.

On the evening before Christmas, in the year of grace 1901, Mr. Tatum had created a mild sensation at his home by arriving with a parcel of huge dimensions. He made sure that none of the children were about the house before he entered, and when he had crossed the threshold he immediately concealed the mysterious bundle in a closet and locked the door upon it.

Mr. Tatum, who was a man of explanation, and her niece, Miss Rose Mayne, seconded the demand strongly; thereupon Mr. Bell struck the attitude popular with candidates when they say "My fellow-countrymen," and said:

"Ladies, I am but human, singular as the statement may seem; but I am nevertheless a being of ideas and reason."

"We are always requiring information," interrupted Mr. Bell.

"Rose," continued Mr. Bell, secretly, turned to the younger lady, "as a school-teacher you must have studied juvenile human nature, and you must have been shocked by the fact that children come to believe in the good stories of Santa Claus and his reindeer almost as soon as they are able to walk; in fact, I have heard you comment upon this sad truth. What is the reason for this?"

"I have heard you say that you have never believed in Santa Claus; where are all the romance and poetry of the season? My own children are skeptical when I tell them the charming legend of Kris Kringle; I have undertaken to convince them that there is a Santa Claus; I have decided to let them see Santa Claus in person."

This announcement naturally pleased the ladies; and their excitement was quite intense when Mr. Bell produced a bundle from the closet and opened it, producing a set of ancient furs and a leopardskin hat that had previously been used by a drum major of the town band; to please the ladies he donned his costume at once, and they cried him a perfect Santa Claus, as he certainly was.

"Now," he said, when he had resumed his ordinary raiment, "I don't think it quite fair to reserve this entertainment for our own children exclusively, so I have invited a few good little boys and girls of the neighborhood; and Mr. and Mrs. Brewster will be here, and young Mr. Moon; I have let them into the secret. You will tell the children to hang their stockings in the north room, and inform them that you have reason to believe that they may see Santa Claus if they sit up and keep perfectly still at the proper time. I'll ascend the roof and slide down the chimney; it is just large enough for the purpose. And I guess that's all."

men who had been studying law for ten years, and who hoped soon to be admitted to the bar, sat next to Miss Tatum, upon whose hand he had written designs, and his efforts to appear at once were amusing and instructive; Mr. Brewster, who was small and timid looking, nestled beside his wife, who was massive and had a vast voice; she looked brooded over the thought of Mr. Bell, who was given to speeches, went into another attitude, and said:

"Children, I have heard that you don't believe there is a Santa Claus? You have formed the frivolous idea that your parents and friends fill your stockings on Christmas eve, and that good old fat-faced Santa is a myth. Now, I have here a letter from Santa."

"Great excitement among the children."

"And he says that he will arrive here at ten o'clock, coming down the chimney which you see before you. I must leave you for awhile, as I must keep watch outside; but you must all be quiet and keep your seats, or Santa Claus may become angry, and refuse to enter."

Ten o'clock was announced by the tall clock in the adjoining room, and the twelve chimneys of that ancient time-piece had scarcely died away before the children heard other sounds. Upoverhauled there was a violent scratching and tearing, as though a poorly shod reindeer was trying to climb the roof, and they distinctly heard the silvery tinkling of bells, and some of them believed that they could make out the grinding of the sleigh runners on the shingles. It was a moment of awful excitement; Johnnie Bell, who had never quailed in the face of a storm, did not try to conceal the cold perspiration that stood on his forehead; Amelia Grimm, whose



A PERFECT SANTA CLAUSE.

courage was generally unswerving and bold, and she tried to stifle a shriek, and only half succeeded.

After the roof had been successfully ascended, they heard a great noise by the chimney, as though Santa had just alighted, and then they heard him descend the interior of the chimney; lower and lower he came, until finally his legs were in the room, and they looked at a very human and prosaic way. After they had looked for awhile, and no more of the visitor's body appeared, it began to dawn upon everybody that Santa was in difficulties. The children and the older visitors, who were sitting in the room, for a few minutes, and then Mr. Moon, who was a man of energy, gallantly rushed to the rescue. He seized Santa's ankles and pulled with all the force of a pair of gymnasium-educator arms, but he didn't seem to make any headway, for Santa yelled in a voice that sounded like a doleful cry from the clouds, and he said: "This comes of a man trying to get the foot when he ought to be thinking of the world to come."

Meanwhile Santa groaned and stretched in a fearful manner in the chimney, and protested that if he wasn't soon released he would be a corpse. Meanwhile, the children, who had been gathered round him, and most of the children had vanished. It was then that Miss Rose approached Mr. Moon, wringing her hands and weeping beautifully, and she said: "This comes of a man trying to get the foot when he ought to be thinking of the world to come."

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Johnnie, for that titter I'll make you saw a cord of green wood. I want you all to go home and tell your parents that Santa Claus is the biggest hoax of the 19th century, and I'll guarantee every word you say."

By careful nursing Mr. Bell was restored to his normal health in a few days, and his first act was to have the old chimney taken down.

One day in March Mr. Moon led his bride to the altar; he held his head high and his eyes sparkled, and the ceremony there was a dinner at Mr. Bell's residence, and Mr. Bell himself was radiant with good humor and hospitality. He called the young couple aside, and indulged in an attitude and a speech.

"My beloved ones," he began, "the morning of life opens radiant to you; sunlight glimmers upon the waters, therefore I have led you to the altar, and the robin redbreasts are twittering on the boughs. But dark days of tempest and storm may come; rolling waves may threaten your bark, and then remember that if you need a helping hand, you may call upon Rufus Bell."

Mr. Moon looked dreamily out to the window.

"May I ask a favor of you now?" he asked.

"A hundred of them, my dear boy."

"Well, I see it's snowing, and there's enough on the ground to make sleighing. Will you lend us your reindeer and sled for awhile?"

Santa Claus' Stockings.

Said Santa Claus on Christmas eve, To judge by all these stockings here, They've turned the stockings here.

She Relented.

"Won't be mine?" pleaded the love-stricken young man.

"I cannot," replied the fair young girl.

"I love you so! Say that you will marry me, my sweet one!"

"I tell you I cannot do it, Mr. Darlington. I hope I make myself plain."

Although rejected so emphatically the youth's native gallantry did not desert him. Although she would not be his, she was a woman, and she was lovely. She was quite as lovely now as before she pronounced his doom.

"Make yourself plain!" he repeated.

"You could not, with all your skill, do that, Miss Teeters. Your beauty cannot be disguised."

She gazed at him in surprise. Never before had a rejected one persisted in telling her she was beautiful. He interested her. A man like that was worth looking at.

"Oh, George!" she exclaimed, "I'll take back all the cruel things I said. I am yours!"—Harper's Bazar.

What the Average Man Needs.

He needed ability, a good pipe, "What the average man really needs," he said, "is not a recipe for getting \$1,000,000."

The Silent Partner, who was wearing a new coat, passed in the hall of a small shop, paused in the process.

"Indeed," said he, "what is it the average man needs?"

He replied, "is a recipe for getting along on \$500 a year."—Chicago Times-Herald.



THE SAME OLD GAME.

By John Mahin.

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WAITING FOR THE CALL.

By Will L. Visscher.

An old gray house, on an old-time farm— "Twas on a Christmas night, And the stars were shining bright, In yellow shafts of light.

An old gray white and an old gray black, Two men were waiting for the call, And the stars were shining bright, In yellow shafts of light.

Said the old black man to the old white man: "Christmas night, the right to set my nephews free!"

"What's that?" said the old white man. "I'm waiting for the call, And the stars are shining bright, In yellow shafts of light."

"You get up, erasle, dem papas, too. I'm waiting for the call, And the stars are shining bright, In yellow shafts of light."

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By John Mahin.

What profound emotions of gratitude should swell up in every human heart at the mention of this now well-known universal holiday! But it is to be feared that the vast majority of those who observe it have no true conception of its meaning. Even many of those whose idea of it is that it is a time to bestow and receive gifts do not fully comprehend what is meant by this hallowed and common custom.

Christmas is not only commemorates the birth of Christ, who gave His life as a ransom for a sinful world, but typifies the ineffable gift of God, who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Paul tells us that salvation is the gift of God, for whom, as James says, is "every good and perfect gift." Paul also declares in writing to the Ephesians that when Christ ascended upon high He led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men.

What are some of these gifts which are thus typified and intended to be commemorated by the custom of gift-giving in Christmas-time? "Peace on earth, good will to men," in the boon it brings to mankind as a whole.

The coming of Christ was the manifestation of God to men. There is no full revelation of God anywhere save in His incarnate Son. He is the fullness of the God-head bodily. Christ was the ideal man, called by eminent reason of Man. In Him we mark the fulfillment of all human capabilities. By Him is reconciliation of sinful man and an offered gift. Faith in Christ crucified—the gift of God